

## Visual Aids

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screen, enabling the user to read.

By utilizing the camera, the person with low vision also can view his own writing, thus enabling him to form readable lettering.

The talking calculator is an auditory aid that will be on display. As the user presses a number or direction sign, the calculator repeats with an electronic voice that number or direction pressed. Monoculars to be on hand can focus from infinity to inches. Other electronic visual aids also will be available.

Because of the expense of this equipment, the Society hopes to formulate a special fund to subsidize those people who would like to purchase equipment but cannot because of limited funds and/or fixed incomes. Contact Barry McEwen for more information.

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Mr. John Goerlich  
Member of Board of Trustees—30 years  
President of Board of Trustees—20 years  
Toledo Society for the Blind

### The Toledo Society For The Blind

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## A Man Not Soon Forgotten

Who could forget the way he shuffled when he walked? Or his raspy voice when he spoke so decisively yet always with gentleness and compassion? Who could forget the man with so many treasured mementos—each and every one worth more to him than gold or silver?

Seventy-six-year-old Lyle Kirk, who was director of Public Relations at the Toledo Society for the Blind, held a special place in the hearts of



Mr. Lyle Kirk

many people. And though he met his death on April 28, his memory will not soon be forgotten.

"Active" was Mr. Kirk's middle name. Two days before his death, he was busily coordinating last minute details for the second annual Toledo Society for the Blind lecture which was held at Toledo Hospital. In between

placing phone calls for the lecture, he already was throwing out thoughts for the Society's next newsletter even though the last one was not yet in the mail.

Mr. Kirk often found himself in the position of having to be in two places at the same time. The night of the lecture at Toledo Hospital was just such an instance. But Mr. Kirk chose instead to attend a dinner for the Methodist Men's Club of Greater Toledo, an organization which he helped organize in 1938.

Mr. Kirk was born and raised in West Virginia where he lived with his widowed mother and two brothers. He graduated from Cleveland Law School in 1929 and was admitted to the Ohio Bar the following year.

After practicing law for two years, Mr. Kirk decided against the field of law and accepted a position with Goodwill in Cleveland. Shortly thereafter, he was transferred to Lorain and then came to Goodwill in Toledo in 1934 where he worked until 1957. At that time he accepted employment with the Toledo Society for the Blind and acted as its executive director for 15 years.

He was also a member of the Downtown Toledo Lions Club for 47 years, a member of Sylvania Methodist Church, served as an officer in the Cherry Street Civic Club, and was at the time of his death the secretary for the Methodist Men's Club of Greater Toledo.

Lyle Kirk touched the lives and hearts of many people during his lifetime. He was a man who many will not soon forget.

## TELECARE: A Reassurance Program for the Elderly

For the elderly and homebound, a friendly telephone call can spell the difference between loneliness and comfort and often, literally, between life and death.

The American Red Cross provides a special telephone reassurance program called Telecare.

What is telecare? Telecare is the answer to many problems plaguing older persons. First, it dispels the fear of having an accident or injury go unnoticed until it is too late. Second, it insures the safety of a handicapped shut-in person who lives alone. And, third, it is a step toward more independence for the shut-in.

All persons 60 and older desiring this service are enrolled through the Red Cross Office of Volunteers. They are telephoned five days a week at a designated time. If for any reason they do not answer their telephone, emergency steps are initiated to insure their safety. A person may enroll himself or be referred by his physician, nurses, social workers, friends, or relatives.

For further information, call Mrs. Grace Liggins of the American Red Cross, telephone 248-3331, extension 214.

(Portions of the above were taken from the West Toledo Herald and a Voluntary Action Center flier.)

# the Toledo Society for the Blind

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## ABC's By Touch Blind Graduate Tries A New Hurdle

After being graduated cum laude, being named best woodwind player by his music faculty, and being singled out by the university president at the University of Cincinnati graduation, Jeff Zavac is devoting himself to one last academic hurdle.

He is learning his ABC's.

The 22-year-old St. John's High School graduate, blind since birth, has hopes that learning to write will improve his social communication.

"I'll be able to send people notes," he said.

Mr. Zavac, eldest of seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Zavac, of 4135 Beverly Dr., attributes his success in school to the aid of friends—faculty members who encouraged him, fellow students, those who read texts to him, and helpful strangers on the street.

Before going back to Cincinnati

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Jeff Zavac feels letter shapes as machine scans print. (Blade Photo)

## Society to Introduce Electronic Visual Aids

The Toledo Society for the Blind plans to introduce soon a variety of electronic visual aids which will be available for demonstration and sale to blind and partially sighted people. Sample models (some of which will be stocked at the Society) will be displayed in a special visual aids center at Society headquarters.

In addition to the Optacon described in the previous article, the Society hopes to purchase another visual aid that enables low vision users to independently read and write called the Visualtek. The system utilizes a television monitor, a camera, and a powerful lens which magnifies print to over 60 times its original size. By placing reading material under the camera and turning touch controls to select the best picture, a clear magnified image appears on the

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## 1977 Christmas Card Program

It is hard to believe, but a new season approaches and another summer comes to a close. Once again, our thoughts soon will turn to holiday planning.

And once again, the Society for the Blind is offering you our Holiday Card Program. Enclosed are card samples which are appropriate for business, religious, and personal use. To order, select one or more cards

from the samples, complete the enclosed postpaid order card, and drop in the mail. Please allow \$4.50 extra per card selection if you desire your name to be imprinted on your cards.

If you should choose to order some of these cards, you will be neither charged nor billed for them. Instead, we ask that you make a contribution to the Society for the Blind. Anything over

the amount you normally spend for holiday greeting cards is tax deductible.

Because of your continued generous response, we are able to continue with those programs that are not funded through Community Chest—namely, summer camp, eye screening, the medical clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, family night, and help for blind bowlers.

We sincerely appreciate your annual support in this program.



Barry McEwen Rejoins Staff

Barry McEwen rejoined the Society's staff last Spring as Rehabilitation Director and Coordinator of the agency's programs. He replaces the late Lyle Kirk.

Barry was a member of the staff from July, 1970, to April, 1973, as Director of the Rehabilitation Department. He then joined the Vision Center in Columbus as Coordinator of Rehabilitation until he returned to Toledo in 1975. He comes to the agency from the Board of Mental Health and Retardation where he held the position of Director of Residential Planning and Development.

Barry and his wife, Judy, reside in Maumee, Ohio. They have a five-year-old son, Duncan.

Recently, Barry was elected Junior Deputy District Governor of Lions International District 13-A.



Barry McEwen

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Blind Graduate

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where he is a musician, he sat in the living room of the family home with the "friend" that is teaching him to write, a machine called "Optacon" that scans lines of print and translates the letters into impulses which he can "read" with his index finger.

The Optacon has given him his first feeling of how letters are shaped, he said, and he has been able, by feeling carefully with both hands, to reproduce the shapes on paper. Optacon also enables him to read books other than those that have been transcribed to braille or made into recordings for the blind, he said.

Mr. Zavac carried a dual major at the university—performance of the saxophone and music education. His favorite music style, he said, is jazz, but he also enjoyed marching in the school band.

To parade, "You have to listen to where you are in relation to the other horns," he said.

His neighbors would let him know about turns, to avoid the sort of problem he once had when he was marching in the St. John's band, "when the band went one way, and I went the other."

At football games in Cincinnati, he had to run down through the stadium bleachers with the entire band.

"If you thought too hard about some of the things you have to do, you wouldn't be able to do them," he said.

Getting around town is also something of a challenge.

"You want to go somewhere, you just ask directions and start out. Then

you ask somebody else questions, and sooner or later, usually a little later, you get there."

He said that he had no particular difficulties at the University other than the normal psychological growing pains of students. And he attributed his high grades to keeping himself organized.

"I scheduled my day, and I stuck to my schedule."

He said he owed a lot to a dictum of one of his teachers—"If you want to remember it, write."

He took his lecture notes in braille, then recopied them, more neatly, after class, and finally he read the notes and tape-recorded them. By that time he had a clear recollection of what went on in class, he said.

At the graduation ceremony, university president Dr. Warren Bennis singled out 12 of the approximately 4,800 graduates for praise, and Jeff was among them.

"I was thunderstruck. I was truly embarrassed," he said.

With the help of a reader, Mr. Zavac recently took the Graduate Record Examinations. He has applied for admission to a graduate program in jazz at the University of Miami, Fla.

Meanwhile, he is living in Cincinnati, playing piano in a restaurant, and playing the flute on Sundays in a Catholic church. Although he studied music education, he said he hopes to become a performer, rather than a music teacher.

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Focusing on our Staff Josephine Brooks

"Good afternoon. Toledo Society for the Blind."

The soft-spoken, pleasant-sounding voice on the receiving end of the telephone line belongs to Josephine Brooks. As receptionist at the Toledo Society for the Blind, Josephine is more than likely the first contact visitors have with the Society. And she comes across warm, friendly, and—best of all—helpful. If Josephine can't answer your question, she will direct you to someone who can.

Josephine, who has low vision, has worked at the Society most of the past 18 years. She started in the Workshop in 1959 doing tagging and piece work until 1972. Then she worked part time for a year as a secretary under a rehabilitation contract with the Bureau of Services for the Blind. After a year's layoff, in 1975 Josephine assumed her present position.

What does she like most about her job?

"I enjoy meeting different people—both handicapped and nonhandicapped—by phone or in person," Josephine answers. "Contact with people makes a job interesting. I never know what's going to happen next."

"Variety" seems to be a key word



Josephine Brooks

in Josephine's life. Before joining the Society, she had worked as a nurses aide, a medical assistant, a beautician (she still maintains her license), and even an elevator operator as a young girl out of school.

Her interests include bowling with the Toledo Blind Bowlers and traveling with her mother or a friend when time allows.

First impressions are often lasting ones. Josephine tries to leave each caller, whether he or she is visiting or calling by phone, with a warm and friendly feeling. "After all, that's part of my job," she says. And it's a job, we feel, that is well done.

How To Succeed at Being Blind

In continuation of the article entitled, "How To Succeed at Being Blind," written by Dr. Hanan C. Selvin for the December, 1976 issue of the New Outlook for the Blind, the following portion deals with rehabilitation.

The long cane identifies me as being blind, but its function is much more than stigmatizing. For one thing, it allows me to claim services that I need from the sighted people around me. Holding my cane where it is clearly visible to oncoming pedestrians, I can ask the first one to help me cross a busy street, find the right subway platform, and so on. In short, the long cane is a license to ask for the special help that blind people need and that the sighted always provide cheerfully.

With the long cane properly used, I am able to move about in familiar places almost as well as a sighted person. However, you must be taught to use it properly. The training takes only a few weeks, but there are many important details that you cannot figure out by yourself. Indeed, many of these details are literally matters of life and death; to have to work out all of them for yourself would be far too dangerous.

In addition to learning elementary braille, I also learned skills of daily living. In this course I learned such simple procedures as handling coins,

handling paper money, dialing telephone numbers, and sewing buttons. Those who wanted it were taught how to operate sewing machines and how to make clothing. In the course on home repair, I learned to handle ordinary tools safely and to make the simplest kind of household repairs. As one indication of what blind people can do when properly instructed, let me note that in this same part of the rehab center men were being taught to cut wood on circular saws! The instructor told me that the blind user is less likely to hurt himself on dangerous machinery than the sighted user, for he knows that he must never become over confident and slight the safety rules.

In the homemaking class, I learned the simplest kitchen skills: How to center a pot on an electric stove or a gas stove, how to measure hot and cold liquids, and how to cook various simple dishes. In this connection, I must report that I grudgingly went along with the instruction on how to clean a bathroom mirror and how to dust furniture, skills I loftily felt I would never need. However, I reckoned without the problem of living alone in California the next year, when such skills were essential. (The conclusion to this article discusses visual aids available to the blind and will appear in the Spring Newsletter.)



Blind and partially sighted participants enjoyed a box lunch and boat ride from Promenade Park recently. Here the group receives assistance in boarding the boat.

Touch Exhibit Held At Museum

Troy Barger, Brennan Johnson, and Tom Prantl (all visually impaired) together visited the "Touch Everything" exhibit held during July at the Toledo Museum of Art.

Little 5-year-old Troy delighted in walking through hundreds of film strips hanging from the ceiling while Tom

examined a wall display of old tires in assorted sizes. Brennan enjoyed running his hands through a bin containing dozens of plastic eggs in various sizes.

The exhibit encouraged individuals to use their sense of touch to explore a variety of art work displays.



The Sign Post

In cooperation with the Braille Institute of America, Inc., Frisch's Big Boy Restaurants of Northwest Ohio are offering a menu in braille at all 22 locations. The menu has 10 braille pages that list more than 100 menu choices and descriptions, but does not include prices. Frisch's service personnel will assist blind patrons with any extra information not included in the new braille menu. Frisch's is attempting to be of more service to all its customers and the braille menu is one more step toward providing independence to those without sight.

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Raymond C. Reese, a Toledo consulting engineer, received an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Toledo last June. Mr. Reese, at-one time, received personal adjustment and mobility training from the Toledo Society for the Blind.

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Blind student Thomas Zraik received a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Toledo's law school last June.

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Approximately 50 blind and partially sighted people will participate in another Amtrak train ride on September 28. The group will depart Toledo early in the morning for South Bend, Indiana, and return in the evening.

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A new bowling league is being formed this year for blind and low vision teenagers. At this printing, details were not yet completed. Contact Barry McEwen at the Society for further information.

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Storm Floods Basement

The Fourth of July ended with a bang this year but not from fireworks. A deluge of water was dumped on the festivities in the Toledo area by a storm which many people compared to another 4th of July flood in 1969.

A sewer backup affected Society headquarters with about a foot of water in its basement. Much rehabilitation equipment, furniture, and office equipment were damaged or ruined. Four cases of bleach were used to clean up the rehabilitation room alone. A complete dollar assessment of damages is still being compiled.